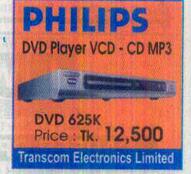


The Baily St



REGD. No. DA 781

Vol. XIII No.210

DHAKA MONDAY AUGUST 18, 2003

People's Right to Know www.thedailystar.net

BHADRA 3, 1410 BS

ZAMADIUS-SAANI 18, 1424 HIBRI

20 PAGES PRICE: TK 7.00

Say sorry, we'll call off strike

Launch owners tell govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Launch owners yesterday agreed to call off their indefinite wildcat strike today if the government finding nothing wrong with their papers

At a meeting with the government, the launch owners claimed that the launches had valid papers, but still were fined last week.

They asked the shipping secretary to check it out at the Sadarghat

The launch owners said the government will have to say sorry in the presence of mediamen if the papers were found valid. But when asked to comment on the matter, Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain said there was no need for the government to say sorry to the launch

"Rather, the magistrate will check all the launches to find out whether they have necessary papers," he

added. "It's up to them to decide whether they will call off the strike."

Gias Uddin Mamun, senior vicepresident of the Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carriers) Association, said, "The shipping minister has undermined our position before the entire nation by saying that we have been running the business without valid papers. But this is not true. So the authorities



Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation launched a special bus service on the Dhaka-Barisal route from Sadarghat yesterday, offering passengers alternative transport amid an indefinite strike by private launch operators.

Court rejects govt order to drop charges against Pintu's brother

Keraniganj double murder

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected a home ministry order for withdrawal of murder charges against the brother of the ruling BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and nine

Pintu's brother Reazuddin Ahmed Monir and the rest were implicated in the Keraniganj double murder case.

Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge

Jahangir Alam Mollah rejected the order after scrutinising the docu-

In his order, the judge said the government did not mention why the charges should be withdrawn. Moreover, the contents of the FIR, charge sheet and decisions of the

higher courts did not suggest that it was a case of political harassment. Earlier, the home ministry sent a

letter to the Dhaka Metropolitan SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Joypurhat incident

2 more militants held, group planned jihad

ANWAR ALI, Joypurhat

Two more suspects were arrested and property of three leaders of the Islamist militant outfit, the Jama'atul Mujahidin, was attached yesterday in Joypurhat where interrogators say the outfit was gathering to prepare to wage jihad (Islamic

With the arrests of Mahbubur Rahman and Mahfuzar Rahman by the joint forces conducting a comb-

ing operation in the region to track down the militants, the number of arrestees rose to 23.

Police attached the property of Montejar Rahman, his son-in-law Mahfujar Rahman and uncle Delwar . Hossain of Khetlal upazila. Montejar's house was being used as the venue of the gathering, which police raided early Friday following a firefight with the militants.

Police, however, did not release 12 villagers picked up Saturday for interrogation.

Interrogators say nearly 150 operatives of the outlawed group congregated at Montejar's house at Moheshpur village in Khetlal.

The operatives, trained up at different camps across the country over the last six months, gathered there for further instructions by top leaders of the organisation.

The interrogators, who grilled

ster page 11 col 7 Chittagong Chamber of Commerce

Ctg professionals demand army deployment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Leaders of different professional forums yesterday called for army deployment in Chittagong to check the law and order downslide at a meeting that came on the heels of the recent killing of a businessman and abduction of another.

Abductions, killings

and Industry (CCCI), also called for a CCCI-led anti-crime campaign to

build awareness among people. The participants of the meeting emphasised bringing criminals to book. Without proper trial and punishment of criminals, it is not possible to fight crime, the speakers

A political will is a must to help SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Buet goes soft on teacher's certificate forgery

STAR REPORT

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) seems mysteriously reluctant to take stern action against a teacher, who produced forged certificates for personal gains from the institution.

Terming the Buet syndicate mysteriously lenient', teachers and students expressed frustration at the way the disgraceful act of Dr Kazi Azizul Mawla was handled

The syndicate finished its job by cancelling only his salary incre-SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Washington wants to see Dhaka exporting gas

The United States wants to see Bangladesh exporting its natural gas so that it can become a middleincome country, the new US ambassador said here Sunday, reports AFP.

"It is a decision for the Bangladeshi government and the people to make," Ambassador Harry K. Thomas told reporters in his first meeting with the press.

"That said, we would like to see a SEE-PAGE 11 COL 7



US envoy Harry K. Thomas

More growth markets.

The future is with DHL. DHL Worldwide Express, global leader in air express, Danzas, global leader in air and ocean freight, and Deutsche Post Euro Express, European leader in parcel delivery, have joined together under the name DHL to create a new global standard in express delivery, freight and logistics. The new DHL offers more service and more possibilities in more than 220 countries. We can deliver you the key to the markets of tomorrow, so if you want to go places, call DHL on 9881703 (Dhaka) / 715835 (Chittagong) or visit us at www.dhl.com

Deutsche Post World Net MAIL EXPRESS LOGISTICS FINANCE

